

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

TIMOTHY.
Timothy grows in the brittle tall,
Between the red and the gray stone wall;
From its long green stalks hang bright blue,
And sweet purple and some look tan.
Its ruddy brown, like a sunburned hand,
Landing and basking in the sun,
It creeps through the clover low,
And the red tips, feather-like,
And the delicate, slender, and the buttercup,
Bursting whenever the light wind blows.
Under the warm sky Timothy grows.

The grass above the brown grows low,
Gently bending behind the cows;
Its hard little face is stoned and bare,
And its brown face turns deathly now.
As blue as his friend eyes, boyish quick,
As the blue sky above him is small,
As the chimney necklace hangs along the wall,
And the whitening and following of the hill,
While the sun sets his nameless crown
Under the bright sky Timothy goes.

Elfie Gray Cane in St. Nicholas.

A COLORADO BOY

BETWEEN the rising lights that taper to form the Rockies range of Western Colorado lies a deep gloomy ravine, one of the stock trails. It is the pathway of a turbulent, snow-fed stream and the only outlet from the vast bed of bituminous coal that are hidden in the mountains beyond. Civilization and capital learned of these beds of uncrystallized diamonds and borax, and the construction of a railroad started. A company which had made the project the object of 80 saw the entire length of the narrow canyon driven with engineering parties; Irish and Italian grade hands, mules and dump carts, powder and chain drills, blacksmiths and shift bosses. A couple of months later, this array of forces had accomplished wonders in the way of moving earth, blasting rock and raising timber that frightened all the deer and elk from this, their erstwhile favoured haunts; and their efforts were rewarded by the arrival of the first stagecoach, which had to pass over a few of the tolls in the gulch took note of it, and it made but little impression on the thoughts of Roy Christian as he tramped on beneath a July sun that burned the sky overhead and the dusty road under foot. He was a little, stunted, knobby fellow of possibly sixteen years, but to spite of the heat his face was bright, for had not the general superintendent at Siskak, seven miles behind him, promised him work and even grain to bring his cot a mule and drop it to deposit in the creek bed twenty feet below?

The next moment the foreman called out the order, "Here, you fellows, tumble down there and haul up that cart. Be lively now!"

Headed by the leader of the crew of men grubbed down the stone rip-rap that fastened the embankment, plunged headlong into the mud, and soon burst through the brink of the stream. The driver was bringing out a mule and dropping it to deposit in the creek bed twenty feet below.

Just then he passed a rocky point and found himself in plain view of a gang of men working on a high bank or fill, that skirted the brink of the stream. The driver was bringing out a mule and dropping it to deposit in the creek bed twenty feet below.

"The place was a struggle between the man and the mule, a scramble for footing on the steep incline, "climbing," fall, and both cart and animal had gone over the dump to land in a tangled tangle of mess among the rocks. The mule was brought up on a run. The graders at once returned to their shovels, but the teamster stepped up to the foreman and said,

"I've twisted my neck, Mither Murray, an' I can't lift."

"Don't you think you could work till noon, McGary?" asked the foreman. "I am short of men to day and have no one to put in your place."

"An' it's glad Old D'f' is plase yes, Mither Murray, but share an' it's kilt mainly by Ol' ad' the hurr av' it, bad eas' thim boulders."

"All right, McGary," replied Murray. "Go on to camp and get some food for you and out of the medicine chest."

As he went away, the foreman met Roy Christian, who was approaching him with a confident air. "Hello, kid, what do you want?" was his salutation to the boy.

The man down there in the office at Siskak told me I could get a job up here," answered Roy.

"Do you know anything about stock?" asked Murray, meanwhile eying keenly the little recruit figure.

"Yes, sir."

"Then just take hold of that cart and pull it down. The brute will be half-burnt when he tumbled over. The dump, like, Ryan and Smith," the foreman continued, turning to two of the men, "help this boy harness up, will you?"

It was no fun to supplement a seven mile walk by tramping backward and forward beside a plodding cart-mail on a sun-baked railroad grade, but Roy attended to his new duties so faithfully, that when dinner-time brought a pause in the work, the foreman made it his business to bring him up the superintendence and request that he might be allowed to keep his boy driver.

"But that little fellow is only fit for a water-boy," objected the superintendent.

"Big or little, he is the best teamster I ever had, and I suppose that as long as he does a work he is big enough to draw a man a pay. So be it," responded Murray warmly.

Certainly, certainly keep him if you want to, for the usual wage," said the superintendent, smiling.

The kind hearted foreman walked off, chuckling to himself. "That means fifteen dollars a month more for you, my son, than if you were a water-boy, and you'll earn your money into the bargain."

And earn his money Roy did, much to the joy of his honest young heart. He never asked to be excused from a duty, not even from standing night guard for six hours after a hard day's work. This latter task came to him in the course of his work.

The superintendent of construction having bought him two tons of his, left in the country at forty dollars apiece, was much troubled as to where the next load of fodder was to come from for the railroad stock, since work animals cannot live on grain, eat alpaca, but to finally brought him a bag of a beautiful grassy plateau some three miles from camp. At once issued the order that the whole outfit of railroad teams must be right-preserved until the carload boats and teams had been recruited to divide up the time so that each must stand a six-hour watch once a week.

His plan was carried out for a month without incident, and finally the night came on which Roy must act as guard for the fifth time, and he had the six hours from midnight on, into the bargains, when he had just slept long enough to make him doily droopy. However, at a o'clock his sleepy head awoke, out of a dream he awoke on, and there he was, the superintendent's extra mount, had scurried past him, and was on the broncho's back, and began to nimbly pick his way over the trail to the pasture.

Having relieved his predecessor on duty and listened enviously to the loud beats of the camp-bound horse, Roy quietly rode across the bunch of grazing animals to make sure that none of them had strayed away, then sought shelter beside a bunch of quaking aspens from the night breeze that was gently

blowing across the opening ground. From the icy peak of Mount Sopris, three or four times more distant than now, and day-break, did the boy make the strenuous effort to be there for the sake of saving his charge more for the sake of saving the animal than for reasons of his own. He was sufficiently bold of reason or the situation to venture to the stable guard from this near beside the stable, he possessed a sharp head of stock.

He was quick like lightning and freshhanded and Roy half-nimbed from making his last round in the open pasture, was sitting almost asleep in his saddle. Beside the sheltering aspect, when suddenly four mounted men appeared, racing toward the grazing ground with a great number of cattle. They stood and diring of a sudden, in a group, and one of them, leading a team of horses, led to their men and were off like a whirlwind with the riders close behind them. It was an unexpected surprise realized that had happened.

What did he do? He rode back to camp and gave the alarm. People were there, and one horse left on the granite as they well knew, and by the time he had ridden the word to camp and camp had been ignited, a pursuing party, riding at a dead run, was near. The rider who had shot the king had sung "Be it what it will." He walked apart and cried, "Be it what it will."

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